

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

May 5, 1999

LB 652, 683

that we want to take out of the...out of the...that are being used in the General Fund coming out of cigarette tax, those have already been committed for the next two years. So if we take that money, that money out and use it for this, then we are going to have to increase the budget. And I believe we are giving the Governor a very good budget this year and I don't believe it's...I think it's remiss of us to give him one that he has to...we're forcing him to use his red pen. I think we've done a good job. I think there's plenty of time to take care of what Senator Thompson wants to take care of in the next couple years, next year or next two years. I don't think there's any question we probably need a facility such as this. Another thing, we all talk about why aren't we spending this money on prevention. Ever since I've been in the Legislature we've talked about the problems we have, we have...we...our facil...we don't have large enough facilities to house our prisoners and crime is increasing. We have talked the last six years of why don't we do something more about prevention but, up to this point, all I...all I've seen so far has been mostly all talk. So I agree that we should be working on prevention and eventually we won't need these buildings. We won't need the work camps perhaps. We won't need the prisons. We won't need these juvenile facilities. Perhaps we'll use them to store George Coordsen's hay or something like that. But the thing is, we have to do both and I realize that now because we have a problem, but I...I think it should be our priority in the next couple years, is to work on preventive measures, come up with those plans and work together on those plans rather than just talking about it. So I do...and as far as how you juggle the cigarette tax money, whether you take the three cents off and use it for this or whatever you do, it still results in an increase in overall spending. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Engel. Senator Thompson, you are next to speak.

SENATOR THOMPSON: This is what I would like to do at this point. The original LB 652 had language that called for a facility master planning for the secure confinement facility and the rehabilitation centers at Kearney and Geneva. When we did the amendment the other day, the language, as I recall, was that there was money set aside for the facility plan for Kearney and